



State of Connecticut
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Good morning, Representative Brendan Sharkey and Senator Eric Coleman, and members of the Planning and Development Committee. For the record, my name is Matthew Lesser, State Representative for the 100th District.

I am here to testify in support of HB 5533, An Act Concerning Local Appeals of Decisions of Traffic Authorities.

The traffic authority in Middletown decided last year to ban parking on a section of Long Hill Road, citing a public safety hazard. Residents had been parking there for 30 years, with very few accidents taking place in that time, and woke one morning to find parking tickets on their cars.

Statute 14-297 designates a local traffic authority. In Middletown, the local traffic authority is the Police Chief. The concern is that in some municipalities, where there is no appellate option when residents are dissatisfied with traffic authority decisions, there is a potential for the process to appear insufficiently transparent. The process is especially complicated in this case, as the Police Chief is a resident of Long Hill Road. An appellate option would allow for an appropriate level of transparency.

I thank the committee for its time this morning and I ask that this bill has a favorable passage out of committee.

